

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 17, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We commend the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on its efforts to ensure that all Americans have access to broadband services. As the FCC considers adopting an order to reform the Universal Service Fund's high-cost fund, we urge you to address the unique needs of community anchor institutions that depend on affordable, high-capacity broadband.

Community anchor institutions provide essential services to their communities, especially to the vulnerable and "at-risk" members of the population. Community anchor institutions also play an important role for our nation's Seniors, often providing their primary means for accessing the Internet. Anchor institutions – which include libraries, schools, community colleges and 4-year colleges, health care centers, community media, public safety, and many other anchors – require high-capacity broadband networks to fulfill their missions. These institutions are engaged in some of our most important national priorities – education, economic development, health and wellness, job training and support, and access to e-government services, among many others.

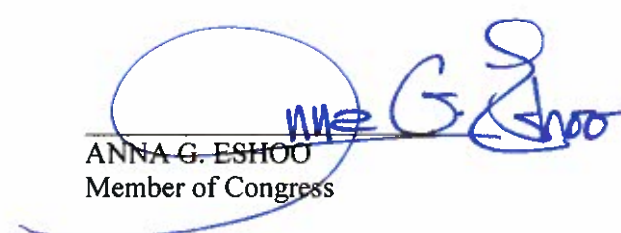
We understand that the FCC may require broadband providers to serve anchor institutions. Most community anchor institutions operate 10, 50, or even 200 computers at a time, all sharing the same broadband connection. To better serve these institutions, the FCC should recognize the unique needs of these institutions and should consider ways to require broadband providers that receive USF support to build-out broadband networks in rural areas to deploy high-capacity broadband to anchor institutions. This will ensure anchor institutions have the high-speed Internet access they need to enrich their communities and stimulate economic growth across the nation.

Again, we urge the FCC to remain mindful of the unique needs of America's anchor institutions as you consider how to reform the Universal Service Fund program. Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

  
DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress

  
EDWARD J. MARKEY  
Member of Congress

  
ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress

  
MICHAEL F. DOYLE  
Member of Congress